SCS Custody Case
1 of 2

OK FH (689)

Dear

As you have previously expressed concern in the John Victor Stoen custody case, I am pleased to forward this progress report.

On February 24, the American Consul in Georgetown, Guyana met with the new ~~Guyanese~~ Minister of Justice, Mohamed Shahabudeen. ~~He was informed by~~ Minister Shahabudeen stated that child custody cases are civil disputes and therefore there is no legal requirement that hearings be scheduled within a specific time period. Further, the Minister indicated that a judge's written opinion may take four months to compose and release. Consequently, the delay to date in the Stoen case is not considered excessive under Guyanese legal procedures.

The Department shall continue to keep you informed of progress in this case. Should you require further information, please contact our Office of Special Consular ~~Services~~, telephone 632-3015.

Sincerely,

Douglas J. Bennet, Jr.
Assistant Secretary
for Congressional Relations

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY _____ DATE _____
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ EXEMPTIONS ☐
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

CA/SCS/EHO'Kane/mrer

ext 29461

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Should you say something in the Minister's statement that he is determined to prevent any Exec. Branch (Guyanese) interference in the Judicial process etc.?

FH

NOT Yet. JP

~~STATS~~
FYI

OK
RD

P/S Clear attached draft for use in updating listed Congressman.

EHO –

CAUTION: MACHINE READABLE DRAFT